

ILLINOIS

1. Memorandum of Understanding with Spain – As a result of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Spanish Ministry of Education, different programs related to the teaching and learning of Spanish are in progress. The Spanish Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Illinois State Board of Education, has established the Illinois/Spain Visiting Teachers' Program, which brings teachers from Spain who are qualified to teach in bilingual education programs in Illinois public schools. This came about as a result of an agreement between the Illinois State Board of Education and the Spanish Ministry of Education first signed in 1998. It has an overall goal of fostering relations between that country and Illinois, promoting the understanding and appreciation of all cultures, and offering bilingual program students access to teachers capable of providing them a bilingual and bicultural foundation that will prepare them for future success. Teachers who participate in this program are considered visiting teachers and they are involved in the educational system of school districts that agree to participate in this program. The teachers are chosen and hired by the participating school districts for a period of one year, renewable for a maximum of two more years, if both parties are in agreement. Under exceptional circumstances, modification of said time limits might be required with previous permission granted by the Spanish Ministry of Education and the school district. This year, FY 03, there are 245 teachers: 200 in school districts outside of Chicago and 45 in Chicago.

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2. Young Teachers From Japan Exchange Program – The program was established in April 1996 with a Memorandum of Understanding between President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto. Young Japanese teachers are selected by the Japanese Government to come to Illinois for a twelve-week experience. The Japanese teachers come as a group in September for a three-week orientation and are then sent in teams of 3 or 4 to local school districts. The Japanese teachers have a three-week experience in a rural Illinois district and then move on for a three-week placement in the Chicago area. The teachers stay with local host families in the two school sites. The goals of the program are to:
 - Provide Japanese teachers with an understanding of the educational system in Illinois, the culture of the United States, and provide an opportunity for the Japanese teachers to explain aspects of Japanese culture to the people of Illinois.
 - Provide Japanese teachers with community level experience, museum and cultural tours that will assist them in understanding the diversity of education, culture and geography in Illinois.
 - Provide a brief tour of some of the regions in the State.
 - Provide school level placements that meet the needs and interests of both teachers from Japan and the members of specific school communities in Illinois.

Contact: Anne Sustik, Curriculum Instruction, Illinois State Board of Education, Email: asustik@isbe.net.

3. Teachers International Professional Development of the United Kingdom – A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the British Consulate, the Governor of Illinois and the Illinois State Board of Education which calls for efforts to increase mutual understanding among educators, community members, students and teachers from Illinois and visiting educators from the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom will be sending 91 teachers to Illinois in the Spring of 2003. They

will have a two-day orientation and will visit Illinois schools for two weeks. This will be the third year of the program. The goals of the program are the following:

- Provide teachers from the United Kingdom with an understanding of the educational system in Illinois and the culture of the United States.
- Provide teachers from the United Kingdom with an opportunity to experience exemplary educational and administrative practices through classroom observation, seminar participation, and modeling of lessons related to a specific theme or instructional area.
- Provide school level placements that meet the needs and interests of both the teachers from the United Kingdom and the members of specific school communities in Illinois.
- Provide teachers and administrators with an understanding of assessment practices that inform instructional decision making in participating countries.
- Disseminate the new ideas learned to colleagues and apply the information to systems of classroom management, instruction, assessment and the design of local school improvement plans.
- Establish an ongoing professional dialogue between educators in the United Kingdom and in Illinois through correspondence and school site visits.

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4. Democracy Education Exchange Program (DEEP) – DEEP is an international educational exchange program initiated in the Fall of 2001 and funded through a grant from the United State Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement. DEEP is administered by a consortium of ten U.S. non-profit organizations including the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC). Through DEEP educators and policy makers from the United States are working in partnership with their counterparts in nations around the world to promote democracy through civic education. Countries participating in DEEP 2001-2002 are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Teams from each of these countries were in the US for three-weeks in Spring 2002 for intensive workshops and seminars on democracy education where they were joined with US educators and policy makers. CRFC hosted teams from Czech Republic, Estonia, and Uzbekistan and linked them with teachers from area Illinois schools for institutes and school visits. Partnerships have been formed between area schools and their partners abroad with on-line communication supporting the exchanges. Through DEEP US educators learn and teach about these countries and the challenges of promoting and sustaining democracy in the U.S. and throughout the world.

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5. Global Fest – Global Fest is a celebration of language and culture held once a year in the Spring. Students from grades 7-12 meet at Urbana High School Friday night and all day Saturday to learn about the language and culture of other countries. The students are involved in cross-cultural simulations; immersion experiences discovery rooms, skits, dances and competitions like the Global Fest Banner Design. They have the opportunity to taste food from various countries. The first Global Fest was held in the Spring of 1989 and Global Fest has been held every year since its inception. Fifty-five schools and 1200 people participated in Global Fest 2002. Global Fest is sponsored by the Illinois Global Fest Committee, the Illinois State Board of Education and Urbana High School. The program goals include the following:

- To celebrate foreign language and international studies in Illinois

- By providing an opportunity for students in junior high school and high school to use language skills and international understandings already learned.
 - By providing opportunities to explore new languages, cultivate cross-cultural understandings, and enhance global perspectives.
 - By exchanging ideas about programs in language and international studies in formal and informal settings for both teachers and students.
 - By providing the opportunity for schools to develop activities, entertainment, exhibits, or booths to present at the Global Fest celebration.
 - By providing students with educational activities linked to the Illinois Learning Standards.
- To provide in-service training for teachers and administrators
 - By demonstrating language and international studies materials and instructional strategies.
 - By providing a showcase for accomplishments of students and schools in these fields.
 - By establishing a forum and network for the exchange of ideas for building language and international studies programs.

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6. Illinois International High School – The International High School was established by Governor Ryan’s office in 2001 as a strategic global workforce development initiative. The focus of the program is on the international dimension of teaching and learning as a factor conducive to the preparation of globally aware citizens, able to compete effectively in the international arena. Fourteen high schools have been selected this year to develop a specific model for implementation of the core International High School elements in the teaching and learning process (These models will serve as a resource for future International High Schools). The World Affairs Councils of Chicago, Champaign, Peoria, The Rotary International, The Asia Society, The Department of Education-Title IV are involved with the program.

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